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LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent

LYDIA ACOSTA STEPHENS
Executive Director

August 31, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the new school year! The Los Angeles Unified School District values the languages and cultures that students bring to our classrooms. The District provides various Master Plan program options for students to achieve academically and learn one or more languages.

State and federal laws require all school districts to give a state test of English proficiency to students whose primary language is not English. In California public schools, all students entering a school for the first time will be assessed with the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, or “Initial ELPAC” if upon enrollment the Home Language Survey shows that a language other than English is spoken at home. This assessment will determine if a student is an English Learner or is Initially Fluent English Proficient (IFEP).

Upon initial enrollment of your child, you indicated on the Home Language Survey that a language other than English was spoken at home. In addition, your child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) identified the use of an alternate assessment. Therefore, your child will be administered the Initial Alternate ELPAC, within the first 30 calendar days of the 2022-23 school year. During this test, your child may use sign language, eye gaze, pointing, gestures, alternative communication devices, or other alternate modes to understand and express information. This test will give your child’s teacher information about where he or she needs extra support.

Until your child’s proficiency in English is officially determined through the Initial Alternate ELPAC, your child will receive English Language Development (ELD) services. This is important so that your child can get the support needed to do well in all school subjects. We want to ensure your child’s academic success.

You are an important part of your child’s education and can help them get ready for the test. You can:

- Read to your child or have them read to you on a regular basis
- Use pictures and ask them to tell you what is happening in each picture in any language.
- Provide them with opportunities to use language outside of school.

To make sure your child feels comfortable taking the test, you can explain to your child that the test is a tool to help them learn and not to be anxious or scared. Remind your child that you and the teacher want them to try their very best and are both there to help. Make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep and eats breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the ELPAC, go to the California Department of Education *Parent Guide to Understanding* at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/elpacpgtu.pdf>. You can also look at sample test questions for the ELPAC practice tests, which can be found on the ELPAC website at <https://www.elpac.org/resources/practicetests/>.

We appreciate your support in determining the right instructional program for your child. If you have any questions about the Initial Alternate ELPAC or the English Language Development services provided,

please contact your child's school to discuss your child's academic journey and instructional program goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Acosta Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a distinct "Stephens" at the end.

Lydia Acosta Stephens
Executive Director